

**Claims:**

I claim:

- Sub 2*
1. In a firearm, a passive safety mechanism comprising blocking means to block a firing element and connecting means which connect said blocking means to a trigger, characterized in that one of the means performs an additional function distinct from that of a triggerbar.
  2. The passive safety mechanism of claim 1 wherein said connecting means connects said trigger to a triggerbar.
  3. The passive safety mechanism of claim 1 wherein said blocking means provides alignment to a triggerbar.
  4. The passive safety mechanism of claim 1 wherein said blocking means positions a trigger return spring.
  5. The passive safety mechanism of claim 3 wherein said blocking means positions a trigger return spring.
  6. The passive safety mechanism of claim 1 wherein normal operation of said firearm is precluded when said blocking means is removed.
  7. The passive safety mechanism of claim 1 wherein normal operation of said firearm is precluded when said connecting means is removed.
  8. In a firearm having a trigger and a triggerbar, a passive safety mechanism comprising connecting means, distinct from said triggerbar, which connect said trigger to means for blocking a firing element.
  9. The passive safety mechanism of claim 8 wherein said connecting means connects said trigger to said triggerbar.
  10. The passive safety mechanism of claim 8 wherein said connecting means is a slidable link.
  11. The passive safety mechanism of claim 9 wherein said connecting means is a slidable link.
  12. The passive safety mechanism of claim 9 wherein said connecting means provides pivot means for said triggerbar.

13. In a handgun having a frame, a passive safety mechanism comprising means to block a firing element, the blocking means located in a frame recess accessible from the rear of said frame.

14. The passive safety of claim 13 wherein the blocking means acts directly upon a sear catch of said firing element.

15. The passive safety of claim 13 wherein the blocking means is substantially the same transverse width as said recess.

16. The passive safety of claim 13 wherein a detachable backstrap provides alignment to the blocking means.

17. The passive safety of claim 13 wherein a positive stop means limits the maximum downward position of the blocking means.

18. The passive safety of claim 17 wherein said positive stop means is a mandrel for a torsion spring.

19. In a handgun having a longitudinally slidable trigger, a trigger mechanism comprising a trigger return spring, said trigger return spring being a torsion spring.

20. The trigger mechanism of claim 19 wherein said trigger return spring acts upon a triggerbar.

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